Establishment of Tourist Office in Gujarat

1547. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not established Tourist office in Gujarat for assisting and providing information to domestic and foreign tourists visiting the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to establish Tourist Offices in the State at conspicuous places within a time frame; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PALIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) to (d) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has setup its Tourist Offices region-wise. Insofar as Gujarat State is concerned, it is serviced by Government of India Regional Tourist Office at Mumbai which covers the entire Western Region.

Plans to Develop New Tourist Sites in Hills

1548. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hill stations in India are becoming over-crowded in peak seasons; and

(b) if so, whether Government have plans to develop new toruist sites located in the hills.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) Yes Sir, some of the hill stations in the country are becoming over-crowded during the peak seasons.

(b) Identification and development of new tourist spots is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. However, the Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals.

The Department of Tourism has in consultation with the State Governments identified projects for development of tourism in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Hills, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Darjeeling and hill areas of Kerala for central financial assistance according to the guidelines.

Future investment in tourism sector by Government

1549. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1995-96, for an investment of Rs. 100 crores by Government, the tourist industry earned Rs. 9,816.00 crores; and

(b) if so, Government's views on future investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) The budget allocation of Department of Tourism for the year 1995-96 was Rs. 92.00 crores. This amount was spent on tourism infrastructure development, publicity and marketing and human resource development. The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1995-96 was Rs. 9185.88 crores.

(b) The budget allocation of Department of Tourism for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are Rs. 90.00 crores and Rs. 110.35 crores respectively.